

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

A packet switched communications system and method for transmitting synchronous data from a source module (4) to a terminating module (8) over a network ~~comprises~~ comprising plurality of modules (4, 5, 7, 8) interconnected via transmission links (2, 6, 9). Each module operates with a clock of nominal frequency ~~but which~~ that is not ~~synchronised~~ synchronized with the clocks of the other module(s) and has a single input and one or more outputs ~~where all the outputs are phase locked to each other but are not synchronised with respect to the input.~~ The ~~system~~ method includes means ~~(405, 504, Figures 4 and 5)~~ for determining the ~~accumulated~~ phase difference between the input clock and the output clock of each module, and means ~~(5, 7)~~ for transmitting the ~~accumulated~~ phase difference to the terminating module (8) in the network. The received accumulated phase difference at the terminating module (8) is used to lock the output clock at the terminating module to the input clock at the source module.